of the World Bank has recently prepared a draft Report titled "India's Water Economy: Bracing for a Turbulent Future". The report is based on study conducted by the World Bank on its own. The report in general discusses various aspects of water resources development and management in India and broadly covers the issues related to:

(i) adjusting to the needs of a changing India;

(ii) adjusting to scarcity and greater variability;

(iii) dealing with growing conflicts;

(iv) maintaining and renewing existing infrastructures;

(v) building infrastructure in under-served areas and for under-served public purposes;

(vi) making the transition from development to management and development;

(vii) revitalizing the machinery of government to deal with the turbulent water future; and

(viii) charting a prioritized, sequenced, pragmatic path for making improvements.

The National Water Policy, 2002 states that the resources should be conserved and the availability augmented by maximizing retention, eliminating pollution and minimizing losses and for this, measures like selective linings in the conveyance system, modernization and rehabilitation of existing systems including tanks, recycling and re-use of treated effluents and adoption of traditional techniques like mulching or pitcher irrigation and new techniques like drip and sprinkler may be promoted, wherever feasible.

Setting up of new river water tribunal

730. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the State Government of Punjab to set up a new river water tribunal reassess the quantum of water in the rivers which feed Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) A Letter of Complaint dated 11.01.2003 received from the Government of Punjab requested for the constitution of a Water Dispute Tribunal regarding water disputes appearing to have arisen, *inter alia*, with the Government of Haryana and Rajasthan. One of the specific matters in dispute cited therein for adjudication and decision by the Tribunal was whether the allocation of surplus water by the agreements related to Ravi Beas waters required reconsideration under certain changed circumstances, including reduction in the available water. The agreement in question were later terminated by Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 enacted by the State on 12.07.2004 and a Presidential Reference in the matter of the Act is before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for consideration and report.

Also, during the 25th Meeting of the Northern Zonal Council held on 25th October, 2005 in Shimla, Chief Minister, Punjab is reported to have suggested that the entire issue of water sharing should be considered in totality with due regard to the changed hydrological, ecological and sociological factors by a fresh Tribunal.

Fall in ground water level in Punjab

731. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that level of ground water has gone very low in Punjab and farmers find it difficult to get water for irrigation purposes;

(b) the details from where the Central Government have received reports in this regard; and

(c) the nature of assistance provided by Centre to the State to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A long-term analysis of ground water levels by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, during the years